Discussion on development and promotion of tourism in N.E.

4902. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a meeting of the North-Eastern States Chief Ministers was convened by Government to discuss the development and promotion of tourism in North-East;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what decision were taken in the meeting; and

(d) how Government propose to implement the decisions and develop tourism in the North-Eastern parts of the country

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The main issues discussed during the meeting were to augment tourist infrastructure in the identified tourist centres and augmentation of aviation facilities in North-Eastern Region.

(d) The States of North Eastern-Region have been asked to field project proposals alongwith detailed estimates for extending financial assistance.

MRTP enquiry against ATO

4903. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that the MRTP is holding enquiries against ATOs; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Director General of Investigation and Registration of Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practice (MRTP) Commission had initiated suo moto investigation under the MRTP Act to find out whether there is any agreement or understanding among various Air Taxi Operators to have uniform fare structure as reported in some news papers.

Foreign Travel Agencies in India

4904. SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several foreign travel agencies or travel services wings of foreign banks are working in India, and if so, the names of such agencies and the countries of their origin; and

(b) what are the services being forwarded by the above agencies, particularly by American Express ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir. M/s. Travel Related Services of American Express Bank Limited is on the approved list of Department of Tourism as a recognised Travel Agency.

(b) The Department of Tourism has a voluntary scheme of granting recognition to Travel Agents and Tour Operators on their satisfying certain norms with a view to ensuring efficient and reliable service to tourists. A Travel Agency is one which makes arrangements of tickets for travel by Air, rail, ship, passport, visa etc. It may also Handle inbound tours and arrange accommodation, tours, entertainment and other tourism related services.

Agreement with Lufthansa Airlines

4905. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA :
DR. BAPU KALDATE :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India has entered into an agreement with Lufthansa Airlines for an unprecedented increase of 67 per cent in Lufthansa capacity to India;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for substantially increasing Lufthansa's capacity for their flights to India;

(c) what is the overall estimated loss in passenger traffic and foreign exchange, likely to be suffered by Air India as a result thereof; and

(d) whether any increase in the capacity is also proposed to be given by Government to other foreign airlines operating in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) A proposal for enhancing capacity between Germany and India is under negotiation between the two Governments.